



State of California-Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**

**SANDRA SHEWRY**  
Director



**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

September 5, 2006

CMS Information Notice No.: 06-05

**TO:** ALL COUNTY CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES (CCS)  
ADMINISTRATORS, CCS MEDICAL CONSULTANTS, CHILD HEALTH  
AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP) PROGRAM DIRECTORS, CHDP  
DEPUTY DIRECTORS, STATE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS)  
BRANCH STAFF AND REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

**SUBJECT:** THE NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM (NHSP)  
ALTERNATIVE NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU) PROTOCOL

In response to the statewide concern regarding the diminishing availability of audiology services for CCS children, the CMS Branch has implemented an alternative NICU protocol. Under specified conditions, this protocol permits the re-screening of NICU infants who do not pass the initial screening rather than require a complete audiology diagnostic evaluation. Where implemented, this protocol will decrease the number of requests for diagnostic evaluations, shorten the length of time for diagnostic appointments, and therefore reduce the demand for audiology services.

The alternative NICU protocol, disseminated to certified inpatient and outpatient infant hearing screening providers and CCS approved audiology facilities, is attached for your information.

We appreciate the support you provide to the NHSP. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact V. David Banda, Chief, Hearing and Audiology Services Unit, at 916-323-8091 or at [vbanda@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:vbanda@dhs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

**Original Signed by Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H.**

Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H., Chief  
Children's Medical Services Branch